

Message Text

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COMM:J LIGHTMAN (INFO)
COMM:W LOFTQUIST
AAP:CAROL RISHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: EIND

SUBJECT: PIRACY OF WORKS OF U.S. NATIONALS IN THE DOMINI-
CAN REPUBLIC

REFS: A) STATE 126445; B) SANTO DOMINGO 3232

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO EARLIER MEETING REFERRED TO IN REFTEL
A, DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HELD SECOND MEETING WITH REPRESENT-
ATIVES OF U.S. PUBLISHING INDUSTRY (WILLIAM CUSICK AND FRED
PERKINS OF MC GRAW-HILL), ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS
(CAROL RISHER), DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE U.S. COPY-
RIGHT OFFICE, TO DISCUSS CONTINUING WIDESPREAD PIRACY OF
SPANISH LANGUAGE BOOKS OF U.S. PUBLISHERS IN DOMINICAN
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REPUBLIC.

2. CUSICK POINTED OUT THAT MC GRAW-HILL WOULD LOSE A
SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT IN SALES EARNINGS THIS YEAR IN DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC DUE TO BOOK PIRACY. WHEREAS MC GRAW-HILL HAD
EXPECTED TO EARN AROUND 200,000 DOLS. IN 1978 FROM TEXT-
BOOK SALES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THE COMPANY ESTIMATES

TOTAL SALES THUS FAR IN THAT COUNTRY TO BE APPROXIMATELY 25,000 DOLS. CUSICK SAID THAT HIS COMPANY AND OTHER U.S. PUBLISHERS FEAR THAT AMOUNT OF BOOK PIRACY IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COULD REACH PROBLEM AREA WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH LANGUAGE WORKS AS IS REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN PIRATING OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WORKS. PERKINS POINTED OUT THAT US PIRATED TEXTBOOKS HAVE BEEN EXPORTED FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO PUERTO RICO AND FLORIDA.

3. RISHER BROUGHT TO MEETING COPIES OF SEVERAL PIRATED BOOKS AS WELL AS SALES RECEIPTS. SAMPLES OF THESE, ALONG WITH A LIST OF OTHER PIRATED TITLES, WILL BE AIR POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE USE.

4. AS STATED IN REFTTEL A, WORKS OF U.S. NATIONALS ARE ENTITLED TO COPYRIGHT PROTECTION IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON BASIS OF BUENOS AIRES CONVENTION IN 1910, TO WHICH THE U.S. AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ARE PARTIES. U.S. PUBLISHERS ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING POSSIBLE COURSES OF LEGAL ACTION WHICH COULD LEAD TO ELIMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED DUPLICATION OF U.S. WORKS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, PUBLISHERS FEEL THAT LEGAL APPROACH WOULD BE LONG, EXPENSIVE, AND INEFFECTIVE AT THIS TIME. A SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IS TO UNDERTAKE A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TOWARD GODR IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (I.E. MEXICO AND COLOMBIA) WHICH ARE ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TARGETS OF DOMINICAN PIRATES. TWO LONG-TERM GOALS OF U.S. PUBLISHERS ARE TO WORK FOR CHANGES IN DOMINICAN COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION AND FOR DOMINICAN ADHERENCE TO UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: U.S. PUBLISHERS STILL VERY INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH HIGH-RANKING DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NEW SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, AND POSSIBLY WITH NEW PRESIDENT, AND WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES AT A TIME WHICH EMBASSY DEEMS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM FURTHER. PUBLISHERS WISH TO INFORM DOMINICAN OFFICIALS OF SERIOUSNESS OF PIRACY QUESTION, AND, HOPEFULLY, TO AGREE ON COURSE WHICH WOULD RESOLVE THE MATTER. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHEN NEW SECRETARY OF EDUCATION IS APPOINTED AND ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY IN ARRANGING A MEETING WITH DOMINICAN OFFICIALS FOR U.S. PUBLISHERS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PATENT INFRINGEMENTS, COPYRIGHTS, BOOKS, COMMERCIAL LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D780257-0132
Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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